

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A method of assessing the expression of mRNA for T cell receptor variable subunit α , comprising the steps of:

extracting mRNA from T cells;

performing a polymerase chain reaction using a reaction mixture that includes a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 through 32 and said mRNA; and

measuring the product of said polymerase chain reaction.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1, wherein said measuring occurs by gel electrophoresis or fluorescent detection.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 3, wherein a progress of said reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction is assessed in real time.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 1, wherein said reaction mixture further includes deoxynucleotide triphosphates.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 6, wherein said reaction mixture further includes SEQ ID No. 56.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A method of assessing the expression of mRNA for T cell receptor variable subunit β , comprising the steps of:

extracting mRNA from T cells;
performing a polymerase chain reaction using a reaction mixture that includes a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 33 through 55 and said mRNA; and
measuring the product of said polymerase chain reaction.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 7, wherein said measuring occurs by gel electrophoresis or fluorescent detection.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 7, wherein said polymerase chain reaction is a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 9, wherein the progress of said reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction is assessed in real time.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 7, wherein said reaction mixture further includes deoxynucleotide triphosphates.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 11, wherein said reaction mixture further includes SEQ ID No. 57.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): A kit for assessing the expression of T cell receptor variable subunit α in a patient, said kit comprising SEQ ID Nos: 1-32, an enzyme capable of performing a polymerase chain reaction, and buffer solutions capable of supporting said polymerase chain reaction.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The kit of Claim 13, wherein said kit further comprises deoxynucleotide triphosphates.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A kit for assessing the expression of T cell receptor variable subunit β in a patient, said kit comprising:

SEQ ID Nos: 33-55;
an enzyme capable of performing a polymerase chain reaction; and
buffer solutions capable of supporting said polymerase chain reaction;
wherein each of SEQ ID Nos: 33-55 consists essentially of the respective specific sequences set forth in Table 2 of the Specification and variations thereof that differ by no more than eight nucleotides.

Claim 16 (original): The kit of Claim 15, wherein said kit further comprises deoxynucleotide triphosphates.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): A gene chip for the measurement of the expression of T cell receptor variable subunit α genes, said gene chip comprising, SEQ ID Nos: 1 through 32.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A gene chip for the measurement of the expression of T cell receptor variable subunit β genes, said gene chip comprising, SEQ ID Nos: 33 through 55.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The kit of Claim 15;
wherein each of SEQ ID Nos: 33-55 consists essentially of the respective specific sequences set forth in Table 2 of the Specification and variations thereof that differ by no more than two nucleotides.